

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-18 and 22-41. Claims 1-18 and 24-40 are allowed. Claims 22-23 and 41 are hereby canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-23 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wahl et al. (U.S. Patent 6,324,654, hereinafter Wahl) in view of Kikinis (U.S. Patent 5,623,597). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has canceled claims 22-23 and 41 in order to expedite issuance of a patent on the allowed claims. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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